

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

SCOTT, Robert C. (Democrat)
Representative, 3d District, Virginia
Elected 1992 to the 103d Congress
Reelected to succeeding Congresses



BACKGROUND

Born: Washington, D.C., - 30 April 1947

Home: Newport News, Virginia

Marital Status: Divorced

Religion: Episcopalian

Education: Harvard, B.A., 1969; Boston College Law School, J.D., 1973

Profession: Lawyer

Military: US Army Reserves, 1970-76; National Guard, 1974-76

Political: VA General Assembly, 1978-1982; VA Senate, 1982-92. Defeated Dan Jenkins (R) in the Nov92 general election with 79% of the vote in the newly created 3d District. Reelected in 1998 with 77%; in 2000 ran unopposed; and in 2002 reelected with 96% of the vote.

Rep Scott, a liberal, is the second African-American from VA to be elected to Congress; not since John Mercer Langston (R) in 1890 has the state been represented by a black man in Congress. During his campaign, he championed preventive approaches to health, welfare and crime; supported a woman's right to abortion, expanding Medicaid to help the working poor, and increasing aid to areas such as Newport News (Shipbuilding and Drydock Co) that are hurt by defense reductions. Several military installations are in his district (Army's Fort Eustis and Fort Lee; Navy's Portsmouth Naval Yard). Pushed for full funding for the next Nimitz-class carrier for the Navy. Considered challenging Sen Robb in VA's Jun94 Democratic primary, but subsequently reconsidered. During debate on the FY95 DoD authorization said defense must not be cut further. Was one of 10 members of the Congressional Black Caucus who did not support the Democrats' 1994 crime bill, insisting its death penalty provisions be balanced by requiring death sentences not be disproportionately applied by race (Almanac of American Politics, 1996).

In the 104th Congress, opposed the line-item veto and a term limits amendment. In the 105th Congress, the federal courts, in Feb97, declared his district unconstitutional racial gerrymandering.

In the 106th Congress, as a member of the Cox cmte investigating China's theft of US Nuclear secrets, concluded that the cmte found nothing worthy of a referral to the Judiciary Cmte. Said he was willing to do anything helpful to resolving a steelworkers strike at Newport News Shipbuilding. Opposed the acquisition of Newport News Shipbuilding by General Dynamics; believed the merger would "injure, if not permanently damage, competition and end all stimulus for innovation in the naval shipbuilding industry." During debate on the Cox amdt to the DoD Authorization that implements several recommendations of the Select Cmte on national Security and Military Commercial concerns with the People's Republic of China, remarked that the amdt gives Congress the common ground needed to enhance the Nation's intelligence infrastructure and prevents our country from repeating many of the episodes which occurred over the past few years.

In the 108th Congress, despite President Bush's 15% cut in Impact Aid, promised his constituents there would not be any money taken from their school districts.

AF Bases: Byrd Field (ANG)

COMMITTEES

BUDGET

JUDICIARY -- Subcs on Constitution; Crime, Terrorisn & Homeland Security – ranking member